

So I am prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3057) was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, July 3, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,528,258,076,325.62 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-eight billion, two hundred fifty-eight million, seventy-six thousand, three hundred twenty-five dollars and sixty-two cents).

One year ago, July 3, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,356,041,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-six billion, forty-one million).

Twenty-five years ago, July 3, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$453,254,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-three billion, two hundred fifty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,075,004,076,325.62 (Five trillion, seventy-five billion, four million, seventy-six thousand, three hundred twenty-five dollars and sixty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MAURICE H. RICHARDSON

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I welcome this opportunity to recognize the valuable service given to Massachusetts by our state District Court Judge Maurice H. Richardson, who retired in June after serving the citizens of Norfolk County with great distinction for nearly a quarter century.

Judge Richardson dedicated his career in the law to serving the people of

our state. As a judge he applied the law with great wisdom and compassion. He was well known for his ability to distinguish between hardened, habitual criminals and those who could take advantage of opportunities for rehabilitation. He encouraged many to seek counseling, enter a drug or alcohol treatment program, or take other steps to put their lives and their families back together.

During his years on the bench, Judge Richardson was also a skillful and tireless advocate for mental health. For many years he presided over mental health commitment hearings for several Massachusetts facilities. He was dedicated to finding the most effective assistance for the mentally ill, and often worked closely with doctors, patients and their families.

Judge Richardson also took the lead in the state judicial system and state legislature to improve the way the mentally ill and the mentally retarded are treated by the state courts, and his efforts enhanced the quality of life for countless individuals and their families.

Judge Richardson has earned well-deserved recognition for his leadership and his achievements. Throughout his distinguished career, he received numerous awards, including the District Court Award for Judicial Excellence from the Massachusetts Judges' Conference, the Annual Award from the Bar Association of Norfolk County, and the Commissioners Award from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

I am sure that my colleagues join me in commending Judge Richardson for his distinguished service. We congratulate him on his extraordinary career and we extend our warmest wishes to Judge Richardson and his family on his retirement.

FIVE WINNERS PICKED TO "CELEBRATE AMERICA"

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, a few months ago, the American Immigration Lawyers Association held its second annual essay contest, entitled "Celebrate America" for fifth grade children across the country. The children were asked to write essays on the subject, "Why I am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants."

Thousands of children entered the contest, and I congratulate all the participants. Five winners were selected, and were judged by a panel that included our colleague Senator ABRAHAM, Washington State Governor Gary Locke, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page, and myself.

The winner of this year's contest is Jaclyn Mals, from Decatur Classical School in Chicago, who wrote about her great-grandfather's immigrant experience. In addition, four other students were honored for their essays—Tony Kudron of Livonia, MI, Samantha Fonseca-Moreira of Lexington, MA,

Mandi Steiner of West Hills, CA, and Kayla Weinstein of Encinitas, CA. All of the essays are an expression of the pride that we all share in our immigrant heritage, and emphasize what the nation gains from immigrants.

I congratulate each of these students, and I ask unanimous consent that the five winning essays from the "Celebrate America" contest be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the essays were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

(By Jaclyn Mals)

MISS LIBERTY AND ME

This man, I'm told, was an immigrant, arrived when he was young, seven dollars in his pocket, Spoke only a foreign tongue.

Miss Liberty greeted him at the shore, and he smiled with great relief, a new beginning was ahead, in freedom, her torch did reach.

The years ahead were an adventure, new language, new customs, and ways, his children were his tutors, to prosper in his days.

This man was my great grandpa, and if you look around, his story is quite familiar now, in this multi-cultural crowd.

He gave us inspiration, to welcome all who roam, and light the way like Miss Liberty, for those with no land to call home.

So whenever you meet a person, who comes from a land that's not free show them all they can be in freedom, like Great Grandpa, Miss Liberty, and me.

WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Tony Kudron)

Immigration has played a very important part in our country's history. Many of our past immigrants passed through Ellis Island from 1892 to 1943. It has been part of the Liberty National Monument since 1965. Many of today's immigrants come to the United States to be reunited with their families. Others come here seeking employment, while others look for political freedom.

My story of immigration is about my sister, Mia. She was adopted from Seoul, Korea. One of the steps in the adoption process was to petition the Department of INS. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is our country's government agency that administers our country's immigration laws and procedures. Our social worker helped us with the forms and procedures. There were several things that needed to be done, but the two most important were that my parents had to have their finger prints sent to the INS, and the other was to fill out Form I-600 to Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative. The citizenship process took six months. The next step was to go to the INS office in Port Huron, Michigan. So, on November 15, 1996 my family went to Port Huron.

We started the afternoon off by enjoying lunch at the Thomas Edison Inn on the St. Clair River. After lunch we went to our scheduled appointment at the INS office located by the Blue Water Bridge. Mia was dressed in a red, white and blue dress and was holding the American flag. There my parents went over the paperwork with the officers and turned in Mia's green card. They gave us a copy of her green card for her baby book. Since Mia was just under two years